

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete list of the claims now pending; this listing replaces all earlier versions and listings of the claims.

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1. ~~(Currently Amended)~~ A control method of for a home office system which includes user terminal devices and a display device connected to ~~said~~ the user terminal devices, said method comprising:

a virtual spaces providing step, of providing virtual spaces for users of ~~said~~ the user terminal devices;

a view providing step, of providing a different view for each of the virtual spaces on ~~said~~ the display device;

a monitoring step, of monitoring the user while ~~said~~ the user is in a certain virtual space; and

a control step, of automatically changing the display of ~~said~~ the certain virtual space to a display of a virtual space for rest ~~on the basis of the result in said monitoring step in response when the user is determined in said monitoring step to have been in a predetermined condition for more than a predetermined time~~, so that ~~said~~ the user in ~~said~~ the changed virtual space for rest can communicate with other users existing in ~~said~~ the common virtual space for rest.

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2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium for storing a program ~~of~~ for a home office system which includes user terminal devices and a display device connected to ~~said~~ the user terminal devices, said program comprising;

code for a virtual spaces providing step, of providing virtual spaces for users of ~~said~~ the user terminal devices;

code for a view providing step, of providing a different view for each of the virtual spaces on ~~said~~ the display device;

code for a monitoring step, of monitoring the user while ~~said~~ the user is in a certain virtual space; and

code for a control step, of automatically changing the display of ~~said~~ the certain virtual space to a display of a virtual space for rest ~~on the basis of the result in said monitoring step~~ in response when the user is determined in said monitoring step to have been in a predetermined condition for more than a predetermined time, so that ~~said~~ the user in ~~said~~ the changed virtual space for rest can communicate with other users existing in ~~said~~ the common virtual space for rest.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A control apparatus ~~of~~ for a virtual system which has plural user terminal devices and a host server device connected to ~~said~~ the plural user

terminal devices through a communication network and creates virtual spaces, said control apparatus comprising:

a virtual space providing unit arranged to provide the virtual spaces for users of ~~said~~ the plural user terminal devices;

a view providing unit arranged to provide a different view for each of the virtual spaces on a display device of ~~said~~ the host server device;

a monitoring unit arranged to monitor the user while ~~said~~ the user is in a certain virtual space; and

a control unit arranged to automatically change the display of ~~said~~ the certain virtual space to the display of another virtual space ~~on the basis of the result in said monitoring step~~ in response when the user is determined by said monitoring unit to have been in a predetermined condition for more than a predetermined time, so that ~~said~~ the user moves on the virtual spaces.

6. (Previously Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 5, further comprising an imaging unit arranged to image the user, wherein said monitoring unit monitors the state of the user on the basis of an image of the user outputted from said imaging unit.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said monitoring unit monitors a face direction of the user and said control unit moves the user to

another virtual space in a case where the user looks toward ~~said~~ the user terminal device with a predetermined number of times or for a predetermined time.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 5, further comprising an imaging unit arranged to image the user, wherein said imaging unit includes a voice sound information obtaining unit for obtaining voice sound information, said monitoring unit monitors emotion of the user on the basis of the voice sound information obtained by said voice sound information obtaining unit and said control unit moves the user to another virtual space in case of judging that the user is in a great stress condition in accordance with the recognition result obtained by said monitoring unit.

10. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the another virtual space is a space used for taking a cooperative rest.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said the user terminal device has a transmission unit for transmitting information of the user to said the host server device and said monitoring unit provided in said the host server device monitors a state of the user on the basis of the information transmitted from said the user terminal device.

12. (Currently Amended) A control method of a virtual system which has plural user terminal devices and a host server device connected to ~~said the~~ plural user terminal devices through a communication network and creates virtual spaces, said method comprising:

- a virtual space providing step, of providing virtual spaces for users of ~~said the plural~~ user terminal devices;
- a view providing step, of providing a different view for each of the virtual spaces on a display device of ~~said the~~ host server device;
- a monitoring step, of monitoring the user while ~~said the~~ user is in a certain virtual step; and
- a control step of automatically changing the display of ~~said the~~ certain virtual space to the display of another virtual space ~~on the basis of the result in said monitoring step in response when the user is determined in said monitoring step to have been in a predetermined condition for more than a predetermined time~~, so that ~~said the~~ user moves on the virtual spaces.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 12, further comprising an image step, of imaging the user, wherein said monitoring step ~~monitors~~ includes monitoring the state of the user on the basis of an image obtained in said image step.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 13, wherein said monitoring step ~~monitors~~ includes monitoring a face direction of the user and said control step

moves the user to another virtual space in a case where the user looks toward ~~said the~~ user terminal device with a predetermined number of times or for a predetermined time.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 12, further comprising an image step, of imaging the user, wherein said image step includes a voice sound information obtaining step, of obtaining voice sound information, said monitoring step ~~monitors~~ includes monitoring emotion of the user on the basis of the voice sound information obtained in said voice sound information obtaining step and said control step ~~moves~~ includes moving the user to another virtual space in case of judging that the user is in a great stress condition in accordance with the recognition result obtained in said monitoring step.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 14, wherein the ~~another~~ other virtual space is a space used for taking a cooperative rest.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium ~~for~~ storing a program ~~of~~ for a virtual system which has plural user terminal devices and a host server device connected to ~~said the~~ plural user terminal devices through a communication network and creates virtual spaces, said program comprising:

code for a virtual space providing step, of providing virtual spaces for users of ~~said the plural~~ user terminal devices;

code for a view providing step, of providing a different view for each of the virtual spaces on a display device of ~~said the~~ host server device;

code for a monitoring step, of monitoring the user while ~~said the~~ user is in a certain virtual step; and

code for a control step of automatically changing the display of ~~said the~~ certain virtual space to the display of another virtual space ~~on the basis of the result in said~~ monitoring step in response when the user is determined in said monitoring step to have been in a predetermined condition for more than a predetermined time, so that ~~said the~~ user moves on the virtual spaces.

19. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 13, wherein ~~said the~~ user terminal device has a transmission unit for transmitting information of the user to ~~said the~~ host server device and said monitoring step monitors a state of the user on the basis of the information transmitted from ~~said the~~ user terminal device.